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BOOK REVIEWS

Bosquejo de la Literatura Chilena. By Domingo Amunátegui Solar. (Santiago de Chile: Imprenta Universitaria, 1920. Pp. 669, [1]. Paper.)

In this work, the edition of which was limited to one hundred copies—a reprint from the *Revista Chilena de Historia y Geografía*—Dr. Amunátegui Solar, the rector of the University of Chile, whose scholarly competency has been demonstrated in other works in this or related fields, notably in his *Encomiendas de Indígenas en Chile* and *Sociedad Chilena del Siglo XVIII*, has made an important contribution to the history of the intellectual life and literary movements of Hispanic America. It is an important field to students of the southern republics in this country as ancillary to political history and as a means of social interpretation and its importance has been recognized in valuable studies by Coester, Goldberg, and others. In the general field of literary history several important critical works have been published by Hispanic American scholars of which may be noted: Roxlo, *Historia de la Literatura Uruguaya*, in eight volumes; Picón Febres, *Historia de la Literatura Venezolana*; Romero, *Historia da Literatura Brasileira*; and Rojas, *Historia de la Literatura Argentina*. The third volume of the last work, *Los Proscriptos*, is of special interest to the student of Chilean literature owing to the intimate relations that existed between the two countries in the period following the revolution.

Considering the literary history of Chile, the present work fills a lacuna, forming as it does a complete and critical review of the subject. There are, to be sure, other works treating directly or indirectly of the intellectual life and activities of the country, such as Lastarria's *Recuerdos Literarios*, Fuenzalida Grandón's *Lastarria y su Tiempo*, Huneeus Gana's *Producción Intelectual de Chile*, the works of Barros Arana, and others. In the present work, however, Dr. Amunátegui has had the benefit of the labors of his predecessors, and has produced a book that is a real addition to our knowledge of Chilean literary productions and history.

National character is clearly shown in Chilean literature. Menéndez y Pelayo has said—and his statement is quoted and confirmed by Dr. Amunátegui—that the Chileans are positive, practical, and prudent, little inclined toward ideals. Colonial conditions in large measure determined this character. Remote from Lima, the seat of the viceroyal court, and from the Atlantic seaboard, with its greater accessibility to European influences, colonized largely by settlers of Basque origin, conducting largely upon its own resources and throughout almost the whole colonial period a sanguinary war against the Araucanos, it was inevitable that such factors should exercise a strong formative influence upon intellectual life and national character. The Araucanian war itself was a most important feature of the colonial life, and was the theme of Ercilla y Zúñiga's *Araucania*, affording a basis for Bello's assertion that Chile is the only country in modern times whose establishment has been immortalized by an epic.

Chilean literature, then, is relatively weak in works of the imagination, poetry and fiction. It has, to refer again to the great Spanish critic, a certain habitual dryness. There are no "orgies of the imagination." It is solid but rarely graceful. On the other hand it is astonishingly rich in historical works. There is hardly a period, aspect, or personality that has not been thoroughly studied. The published results of such intellectual activities form a most impressive collection of critical and thoroughly documented historical studies.

In the present work—to note some of the general features—the author is neither discursive nor eulogistic. He is succinct, analytical, critical, conforming to the best methods of the Chilean historical school. Historical, political, ethnic, and social factors and influences are everywhere noted. The significance of periodicals as prime elements of literary activity is carefully set forth. The establishment of educational institutions, and the organization of literary societies are noted, their spirit, tendencies, and influence weighed, and the general relation of the state to education, a matter of major importance in the nascent republic, carefully stressed. Characteristic quotations are freely introduced, but never in such a degree as to obscure the historical and expository method of the author. Free use is made of footnotes for biographical and bibliographical data. The lack of an index is measurably compensated by an analytical table of contents that greatly facilitates reference use.

The author has included in this study the period from the revolution to the present. He has also published a history of the literature of

the colonial period which the present reviewer has not yet been able to examine.

The early period which we may consider as extending to the year 1842 is an interesting one. It is a period of stress, of national organization and orientation, of the adaptation of social and political life to largely different conditions. Important among the early events in the new republic were the initiation of national journalism with the foundation in 1812 of the *Aurora de Chile* under the editorship of Camilo Henríquez, and the establishment in 1813 of the Instituto Nacional, its abolishment by the royalist restoration, and its reorganization under the government of O'Higgins in 1819.

A feature of interest in this period of national parturieney is the influence exercised upon the intellectual and educational development by expatriates from other countries who, in acceptance of offers from the government or induced by the more orderly and stable conditions, became domiciled in Chile. Among these were Mora, former agent of Ferdinand VII., who was an important factor in the educational activities, and Andrés Bello, the great Venezuelan, who, arriving in Chile in 1829 after a sojourn of many years in England, exerted a profound and beneficial influence upon the intellectual growth of the younger generation. From Argentina also came many who had been driven out by the conditions under the Rosas regime—Sarmiento, Mitre, Fidel López, and others—who took an active and influential place in educational activities and journalism. The polemic which developed between the latter and the followers of Mora and Bello is an interesting and important episode of the period. Dr. Amunátegui has summarized this as follows:

With the design of forwarding the romantic movement which had for some years prevailed in Europe and with the frank object of discouraging Spanish literature, the Argentine writers opposed by Vallejo and San Fuentes . . . feel themselves justified in expressing their views on the causes of Chilean literary sterility, thus giving offense to former students of Mora and followers of Bello. Sarmiento, especially, sustained the opinion that the methods of the distinguished Venezuelan instead of stimulating his students, deterred them by the fear of incorrectness of language, and by an exaggerated regard for the models proposed by Bello as standards. . . .

Happily, in Chile the lessons of Bello and Mora triumphed. . . . Thus it has resulted that in our country Spanish is better spoken than in the other republics of America.

An interesting account of this discussion which became quite acrimonious will be found in Lastarria's *Recuerdos Literarios*, somewhat

more critical of Bello and written by one who was an important participator in the events of that period. Rojas also, in the chapter on "La Escuela Cuyana", in the third volume of his *Historia de la Literatura Argentina* has discussed it from the Argentine point of view.

The establishment of the University of Chile in 1843, under the wise direction of Bello was a notable event in the cultural history of the country especially in its influence upon the development of scientific and historical studies. The act creating the university provided that there should be prepared every year by some member of the faculty to be designated by the rector a monograph on some important question of national history. From this provision have sprung a notable series of historical monographs which Dr. Amunátegui has noted with critical appreciations.

During the period from 1842 to the present, Chilean literature has shown the general character expressed previously in this review. The author has given a luminous outline of the historical work of Barros Arana, Vicuña Mackenna, Miguel Luis Amunátegui, and others who have distinguished themselves in this field. He has devoted special chapters to poetry, the drama, and fiction, analyzing the work of Guillermo Matta, the greatest Chilean poet and of Alberto Blest Gana whom he considers the real founder of the Chilean novel.

Of the latter, Dr. Amunátegui says:

Without doubt, Alberto Blest Gana is an exceptional case in Chilean letters of the past century. In all the forms of literary activity cultivated in our country, the initiators or founders were soon equaled by others who succeeded them. This is seen in history, lyric poetry, and journalism. Nothing like this took place in the case of the novel. Blest Gana from the first notably surpassed all of his compatriots who devoted their pens to the novel. . . . We must come to the present century to find authors of novels or stories who, if they do not contest the palm with Blest Gana, can at least be placed in the same class with him without exaggeration.

A special chapter is given to the literary school of the ecclesiastical colleges, to the activities of the Jesuits, and to a review of their organ, *La Estrella de Chile*.

The final chapter of this valuable work contains "general observations on Chilean letters in the 19th century, new tendencies, evolution of journalism and parliamentary oratory, influence of Pedro Antonio González and Rubén Darío on lyric poetry, and the future of the novel and drama". The concluding paragraph is as follows:

It can be affirmed that social questions will dominate in the period that is beginning. For the successful solution of these it will be necessary that history continue presenting its fruitful lessons in order that present problems be thoroughly studied. With the same object, statesmen should lend attentive ear to the voice of the novelists, dramatists and poets.

C. K. JONES.

List of Works for the Study of Hispanic-American History. By HAYWARD KENISTON. (New York: The Hispanic Society of America, 1920. Pp. XVIII, (2), 451.) [Hispanic notes and monographs . . . issued by the Hispanic Society of America, V.]

An important element in the judgment of a book should be a consideration of the author's objective.

In the present case the author's purpose has been clearly and succinctly expressed in the preface and the reviewer feels that he cannot do better than quote the author's words:

No one has undertaken work in the field of Hispanic-American history without feeling the handicap which the lack of a . . . [bibliographical] guide imposes upon him. . . . It is to meet this need, to provide, if not a complete bibliography, at least a list which may serve as a basis for an eventual definitive work, that the present work has been compiled.

It has been my purpose to include the essential works, both primary sources and secondary studies. . . . Biography has naturally been given a place of equal importance with the narration of events, and the story of the missions has everywhere been included. . . . For the fields ancillary to history (antiquities, anthropology and ethnology; cartography and geography; constitutional law, government, and political economy; linguistics and literature), I have included only bibliographical and general works. And I have made a similar limitation in the list of works on the non-Hispanic Colonies of Guiana and the Antilles. In every case I have tried to record any bibliographical work on a period or subject. . . .

Certain types of work have been omitted altogether: (1) Government publications of the individual Hispanic-American Republics since the declaration of independence . . . (2) calendars of state papers or catalogues of archives of European governments other than Spain or Portugal; (3) state documents of the United States. . . .

The compiler has grouped the works under Hispanic America in general and individual countries or states. Under each main heading are: (1) Works concerning the whole history and (2) Works on special periods: 1. Aborigines (to 1492), 2. Discovery and conquest (1492-1550), 3. Colonies (1550-1810), 4. Revolution (1810-1830). Sections under